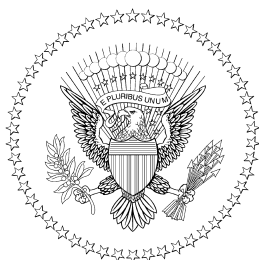


Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, July 7, 2008  
Volume 44—Number 26  
Pages 925–948

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**Editor's Note:** In order to meet publication and distribution deadlines during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the cutoff time for this issue has been advanced to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. Documents released after that time will appear in the next issue.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Thursday, July 3, 2008

**The President's Radio Address**

*June 28, 2008*

Good morning. This week, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives held a conference to highlight the work being done by our Nation's armies of compassion, with help from the Federal Government. This conference demonstrated the remarkable difference these groups have made over the past 8 years.

When I first came to office, I was troubled to see many of our citizens' greatest needs going unmet. Too many addicts walked the rough road to recovery alone. Too many prisoners had the desire for reform but no one to show them the way. Across our country, the hungry, homeless, and sick begged for deliverance, and too many heard only silence in reply.

The tragedy was that there were good men and women across America who had the desire to help but not the resources. Because many of them worked with small charities, they were overlooked by Washington as potential partners in service. And because many of them belonged to faith-based organizations, they were often barred from receiving support from the Federal Government.

So I set about to change this with a new approach called compassionate conservatism. This approach was compassionate, because it was rooted in a timeless truth: That we ought to love our neighbors as we'd like to be loved ourselves. And this approach was conservative, because it recognized the limits of government; that bureaucracies can put money in people's hands, but they cannot put hope in people's hearts.

Putting hope in people's hearts is the mission of our Nation's faith-based and community groups, so my administration decided to treat them as trusted partners. We held these groups to high standards and insisted on demonstrable results. And they have delivered on those expectations.

Through their partnerships with the Government, these organizations have helped reduce the number of chronically homeless by nearly 12 percent, getting more than 20,000 Americans off the streets. They have helped match nearly 90,000 children of prisoners with adult mentors. And they have helped provide services such as job placement for thousands of former inmates.

Faith-based and community groups have also had a powerful impact overseas. In Africa, they have participated in our malaria initiative. In just over 2 years, this effort has reached more than 25 million people. And according to new data, malaria rates are dropping dramatically in many parts of that continent.

These groups have also been a vital part of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. When we launched this program in 2003, about 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS. Today, that number is nearly 1.7 million.

Behind each of these statistics, there are stories of people whose lives have been changed by the kindness of faith-based and community organizations. One such person is Ramie Siler.

Ramie was once lost to substance abuse, recidivism, and depression. Even when she tried to get clean for her daughter's high school graduation, Ramie couldn't break free from her addiction. Then she found a faith-based group called the Next Door. At the Next Door, Ramie met people who stood by her throughout her difficult recovery. They gave her a second chance to become a productive citizen and good mother.

Today, Ramie is reunited with her daughter. She now helps other women as the Next Door case manager. When Ramie describes her turnaround, she uses the words of Saint Paul: "Old things have passed away; behold, all things are becoming new."

I'm grateful to every American who works to create this spirit of hope. Because of you, our Nation has made great strides toward fulfilling the noble goals that gave rise to the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. And because of you, I'm confident that the progress we have made over the past 8 years will continue. Because of you, countless souls have been touched and lives have been healed.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on June 27 at Camp David, MD, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Statement on the Situation in Zimbabwe**

*June 28, 2008*

On Friday, the Mugabe regime held a sham election that ignored the will of the people of Zimbabwe. The international community has condemned the Mugabe regime's ruthless campaign of politically motivated violence and intimidation with a strong and unified voice that makes clear that yesterday's election was in no way free and fair. Any legitimate Government of Zimbabwe must represent the interests of all its citizens and the outcome of the March 29 elections.

Given the Mugabe regime's blatant disregard for the Zimbabwean people's democratic will and human rights, I am instructing the Secretaries of State and Treasury to develop sanctions against this illegitimate Government of Zimbabwe and those who support it. We will press for strong action by the United Nations, including an arms embargo on Zimbabwe and travel ban on regime officials. We will continue to work closely with the African Union, Southern African Development Community, and other world leaders to resolve this crisis.

The United States stands ready to support a legitimate government through a robust package of development assistance, debt relief, and normalization with international fi-

nancial institutions. In the meantime, we will continue to support the people of Zimbabwe by providing food assistance to more than 1 million people and AIDS treatment to more than 40,000 people.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

### **Remarks on Signing the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008**

*June 30, 2008*

Good morning. A few moments ago, I signed legislation that funds our troops who are in harm's way. Our Nation has no greater responsibility than supporting our men and women in uniform, especially since we're at war. This is a responsibility all of us in Washington share, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans. And I want to thank leaders of the House and Senate for getting this bill to my office.

America remains a nation at war. There are enemies who intend to harm us. Standing in their way are brave men and women who put on the uniform, who raised their right hand and took an oath to defend our freedom. They volunteered to deploy in distant lands, far from their families, far from their homes, and far from comfort of America. And every day, they risk their lives to defeat our adversaries and to keep our country safe.

We owe these brave Americans our gratitude; we owe them our unflinching support. And the best way to demonstrate that support is to give them the resources they need to do their jobs and to prevail. The bill I signed today does exactly that. It provides necessary funds to support our troops as they conduct military operations in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and in other theaters in the war on terror.

I appreciate that Republicans and Democrats in Congress agreed to provide these vital funds without tying the hands of our commanders and without an artificial timetable of withdrawal from Iraq. Our troops have driven the terrorists and extremists from many strongholds in Iraq. Today, violence is at the lowest level since March of 2004. As a result of this progress—some of

our troops are coming home as result of our policy called return on success. We welcome them home. And with this legislation we send a clear message to all that are serving on the frontline that our Nation continues to support them.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our Nation's military families. They endure sleepless nights and the daily struggle of caring for children while a loved one is serving far from home. We have a responsibility to provide for them. So I'm pleased that the bill I sign today includes an expansion of the GI bill. This legislation will make it easier for our troops to transfer unused education benefits to their spouses and children. It will help us to recruit and reward the best military on the face of the Earth. It will help us to meet our responsibilities to those who support our troops every day, America's great military families.

The bill also includes agreed-upon funding for other critical national priorities. This bill includes \$465 million for the Merida Initiative, a partnership with Mexico and nations in Central America to crack down on violent drug trafficking gangs. The bill includes nearly \$2.7 billion to help ensure that any State facing a disaster, like the recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest, has access to needed resources. This bill includes a measured expansion of unemployment insurance benefits with a reasonable work requirement. And this bill holds overall discretionary spending within the sensible limits that I requested.

The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill. I appreciate the hard work of my Cabinet, especially the leaders of Defense and State and Veterans Affairs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as OMB. I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. I am particularly grateful to Congressmen Boehner, Hoyer, Obey, and Lewis. And I want to thank Members who worked hard for the GI bill expansion, especially Senators Webb and Warner, Graham, Burr, and McCain.

This bill shows the American people that even in an election year, Republicans and

Democrats can come together to stand behind our troops and their families.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Veterans Affairs James B. Peake; and James A. Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget. H.R. 2642, approved June 30, was assigned Public Law No. 110-252. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks at Opening Day of 2008 White House Tee-Ball

June 30, 2008

**The President.** Menudo, thank you. Yes, we're glad you're here. Opening day 2008, tee-ball on the South Lawn. I'm proud to be joined by the commissioner for the day, Roberto Clemente, Jr. *Bienvenido*.

**Roberto Clemente, Jr.** *Gracias, gracias.*

**The President.** Si. Roberto, I don't know if you know this or not, but we've got a special right field porch this year. This is an addition—we might just call that Clemente porch. After all, we did retire your dad's number this year.

I'm so proud to welcome, from Manati, Puerto Rico, the Little Angels. We're glad you're here; and from Camden, New Jersey, the mighty Red Sox; first base coach, Jose Rijo—he could deliver that fast ball in the best of times—now with the Washington Nationals. Third base coach, Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce; Carlos, glad you're here. Congressman Rob Andrews—Congressman, thanks for coming. We're sure proud you're here.

Today we're very lucky to have our game called by Natalie Morales. Natalie, *bienvenidos*. Thank you for coming.

**Natalie Morales.** *Gracias.*

**The President.** Natalie happens to work for NBC's "Today" show. We really appreciate you coming.

**Ms. Morales.** That's right. Thank you, sir, for having me.

**The President.** No problem.

Boy Scout Troop 457 from Rockville, Maryland, is with us today. Thanks for coming. Steve Keener, president of Little League

America; we're glad you're here, Steve. Thanks for coming back. Appreciate you supporting baseball throughout America.

Laura and I are thrilled also to be joined today by our first pitch kind of semi-throwers. [Laughter] Angel Macias is with us. For those of you who follow Little League baseball, you might remember, in 1957—*es verdad?*

**Angel Macias.** Right.

**The President.** *Si.* He threw a perfect game for Monterrey, Mexico, in the Little League World Series, and Mexico went on to win the world series. And we're so glad you're here. Welcome to the White House.

And standing with you is Jake T. Austin, who happens—who's going to be playing Angel in the movie—

**Jake T. Austin.** Yes, I play Angel Macias in the movie.

**The President.** And what's the movie?

**Mr. Austin.** The movie is called "The Perfect Game," and it's coming out in 2008, this year.

**The President.** —2008, yes. You probably recommend we all go see it.

**Mr. Austin.** We'd greatly appreciate it. [Laughter]

**The President.** Yes. Well, Laura was suggesting, Jake T., that we actually have a showing here at the White House.

**Mr. Austin.** Great.

**The President.** Yes, see, he's for that.

Before we get started, I do want the players to join me in the Little League Pledge. Are you ready?

[At this point, the pledge was recited.]

Play ball!

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers Menudo, who sang the national anthem; sports broadcaster Roberto Clemente, Jr.; and Jose Rijo, special assistant to the general manager, Washington Nationals. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Proclamation 8272—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences, Take Certain Actions Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for Other Purposes**

June 30, 2008

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

1. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), beneficiary developing countries, except those designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries as provided in section 503(c)(2)(D) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(D)), are subject to competitive need limitations on the preferential treatment afforded under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to eligible articles.

2. Pursuant to sections 501 and 503(a)(1)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2463(a)(1)(A)), the President may designate articles as eligible for preferential tariff treatment under the GSP.

3. Section 503(c)(2)(F)(i) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(i)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

4. Pursuant to section 503(d)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(1)), the President may waive the application of the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if certain conditions are met.

5. Pursuant to section 503(d)(5) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(5)), any waiver granted under section 503(d) shall remain in

effect until the President determines that such waiver is no longer warranted due to changed

6. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP if the President determines that such country has become a “high income” country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

7. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that in 2007 certain beneficiary developing countries have exported certain eligible articles in quantities exceeding the applicable competitive need limitations, and I therefore terminate the duty-free treatment for such articles from such beneficiary developing countries.

8. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act should be disregarded with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries.

9. Pursuant to section 503(d)(1) of the 1974 Act, I have received the advice of the United States International Trade Commission on whether any industries in the United States are likely to be adversely affected by such waivers, and I have determined, based on that advice and on the considerations described in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), and after giving great weight to the considerations in section 503(d)(2) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(2)), that such waivers are in the national economic interest of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries.

10. Pursuant to section 503(d)(5) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain previously granted waivers of the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A) of

the 1974 Act are no longer warranted due to changed circumstances.

11. Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Trinidad and Tobago has become a “high income” country, and I am terminating the designation of that country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective January 1, 2010.

12. Section 502(a)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(a)(1)) authorizes the President to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP. In Proclamation 7912 of June 29, 2005, I designated Serbia and Montenegro as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP. On June 3, 2006, upon Montenegro’s declaration of independence from Serbia and Montenegro, the country separated into two independent republics: the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and taking into account the factors set forth in section 502(c) of that Act, I have determined that, in light of the separation of Serbia and Montenegro into two countries, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro should each be designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

13. Section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), as added by section 111(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (title I of Public Law 106–200, 114 Stat. 254) (AGOA), authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703) and the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

14. Section 104 of the AGOA authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA as an eligible sub-Saharan African country if the President determines that the country meets certain eligibility requirements.

15. Section 112(c) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)), as added by section 6002(a) of the Africa Investment Incentive Act of 2006 (division D of title VI of Public Law 109–432, 120 Stat. 2922), provides special rules for

certain apparel articles imported from lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

16. Pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA and section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the Union of the Comoros (Comoros) meets the eligibility requirements set forth or referenced therein, and I have decided to designate Comoros as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

17. I have further determined that Comoros satisfies the criterion for treatment as a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under section 112(c)(5)(D)(i) of the AGOA.

18. On August 5, 2004, the United States entered into the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement") with Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Congress approved the Agreement in section 101(a) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "CAFTA-DR Act") (19 U.S.C. 4011).

19. Pursuant to section 403(a) of the CAFTA-DR Act (19 U.S.C. 4111(a)), the President is to report biennially to the Congress on the matters described in that section and, as the President deems appropriate, in section 403(b)(2) of the CAFTA-DR Act (19 U.S.C. 4111(b)(2)).

20. Pursuant to section 403(a)(4) of the CAFTA-DR Act (19 U.S.C. 4111(a)(4)), the President is to establish a mechanism to solicit public comments on the matters described in section 403(a)(3)(D) of the CAFTA-DR Act (19 U.S.C. 4111(a)(3)(D)).

21. In Presidential Proclamation 8213 of December 20, 2007, I modified the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) pursuant to section 1634 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-280, 120 Stat. 780) to carry out the understandings described in that section. Technical rectifications to the HTS are required to provide the intended tariff treatment.

22. In Presidential Proclamation 8240 of April 17, 2008, pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I modified the HTS to withdraw duty-free treatment for

certain articles from Jamaica. A technical rectification to the HTS is required to provide the intended tariff treatment.

23. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other Acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, section 104 of the AGOA, section 301 of title 3, United States Code (3 U.S.C. 301), and section 403 of the CAFTA-DR Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that one or more countries should no longer be treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as set forth in section A of Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to provide that one or more countries should not be treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as set forth in section B of Annex I to this proclamation.

(3) In order to designate certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as set forth in section C of Annex I to this proclamation.

(4) The competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act is disregarded with respect to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing countries listed in Annex II to this proclamation.

(5) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing countries set forth in Annex III to this proclamation.

(6) The waivers of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act to the articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing countries listed in Annex IV to this proclamation are revoked.

(7) The designation of Trinidad and Tobago as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP is terminated, effective on January 1, 2010.

(8) In order to reflect this termination in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting “Trinidad and Tobago” from the list of independent countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2010.

(9) The Republic of Serbia is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

(10) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) is modified by deleting “Serbia and Montenegro” and adding in alphabetical order “Serbia” to the list of independent countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the thirtieth day after the date of this proclamation.

(11) The Republic of Montenegro is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

(12) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) is modified by adding in alphabetical order “Montenegro” to the list of independent countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the thirtieth day after the date of this proclamation.

(13) Comoros is designated as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of the AGOA.

(14) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 16(a) to the HTS is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence in the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries “Union of the Comoros” effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after July 1, 2008.

(15) For purposes of section 112(c) of the AGOA, Comoros is a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(16) The modifications to the HTS set forth in Annexes I and IV to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates set forth in the respective annex.

(17) The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall carry out the reporting function under sections 403(a) and 403(b)(2) of the CAFTA-DR Act.

(18) The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall solicit public comments under section 403(a)(4) of the CAFTA-DR Act.

(19) In order to provide the intended tariff treatment to certain articles of Jamaica, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex V to this proclamation.

(20) The modifications to the HTS set forth in Annex V to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date set forth in Annex V.

(21) In order to provide the intended tariff treatment to goods subject to the understandings carried out in Proclamation 8213, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex VI to this proclamation.

(22) The modifications to the HTS set forth in Annex VI to this proclamation shall enter into effect on the date that the modifications to the HTS set out in section C or D of the Annex to Proclamation 8213, as appropriate, enter into force, and shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after that date.

(23) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:01 a.m., July 2, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annexes were published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.

**Executive Order 13467—Reforming Processes Related to Suitability for Government Employment, Fitness for Contractor Employees, and Eligibility for Access to Classified National Security Information**

June 30, 2008

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to ensure an efficient, practical, reciprocal, and aligned system for investigating and determining suitability for Government employment, contractor employee fitness, and eligibility for access to classified information, while taking appropriate account of title III of Public Law 108–458, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**PART 1—POLICY, APPLICABILITY, AND DEFINITIONS**

**Section 1.1. Policy.** Executive branch policies and procedures relating to suitability, contractor employee fitness, eligibility to hold a sensitive position, access to federally controlled facilities and information systems, and eligibility for access to classified information shall be aligned using consistent standards to the extent possible, provide for reciprocal recognition, and shall ensure cost-effective, timely, and efficient protection of the national interest, while providing fair treatment to those upon whom the Federal Government relies to conduct our Nation's business and protect national security.

**Sec. 1.2. Applicability.** (a) This order applies to all covered individuals as defined in section 1.3(g), except that:

- (i) the provisions regarding eligibility for physical access to federally controlled facilities and logical access to federally controlled information systems do not apply to individuals exempted in accordance with guidance pursuant to the Federal Information Security Management Act (title III of Public

Law 107–347) and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12; and

- (ii) the qualification standards for enlistment, appointment, and induction into the Armed Forces pursuant to title 10, United States Code, are unaffected by this order.

(b) This order also applies to investigations and determinations of eligibility for access to classified information for employees of agencies working in or for the legislative or judicial branches when those investigations or determinations are conducted by the executive branch.

**Sec. 1.3. Definitions.** For the purpose of this order:

(a) “Adjudication” means the evaluation of pertinent data in a background investigation, as well as any other available information that is relevant and reliable, to determine whether a covered individual is:

- (i) suitable for Government employment;
- (ii) eligible for logical and physical access;
- (iii) eligible for access to classified information;
- (iv) eligible to hold a sensitive position; or
- (v) fit to perform work for or on behalf of the Government as a contractor employee.

(b) “Agency” means any “Executive agency” as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, including the “military departments,” as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code, and any other entity within the executive branch that comes into possession of classified information or has designated positions as sensitive, except such an entity headed by an officer who is not a covered individual.

(c) “Classified information” means information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 12958 of April 17, 1995, as amended, or a successor or predecessor order, or the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*) to require protection against unauthorized disclosure.

(d) “Continuous evaluation” means reviewing the background of an individual who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information (including additional

or new checks of commercial databases, Government databases, and other information lawfully available to security officials) at any time during the period of eligibility to determine whether that individual continues to meet the requirements for eligibility for access to classified information.

(e) "Contractor" means an expert or consultant (not appointed under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) to an agency; an industrial or commercial contractor, licensee, certificate holder, or grantee of any agency, including all subcontractors; a personal services contractor; or any other category of person who performs work for or on behalf of an agency (but not a Federal employee).

(f) "Contractor employee fitness" means fitness based on character and conduct for work for or on behalf of the Government as a contractor employee.

(g) "Covered individual" means a person who performs work for or on behalf of the executive branch, or who seeks to perform work for or on behalf of the executive branch, but does not include:

- (i) the President or (except to the extent otherwise directed by the President) employees of the President under section 105 or 107 of title 3, United States Code; or
- (ii) the Vice President or (except to the extent otherwise directed by the Vice President) employees of the Vice President under section 106 of title 3 or annual legislative branch appropriations acts.

(h) "End-to-end automation" means an executive branch-wide federated system that uses automation to manage and monitor cases and maintain relevant documentation of the application (but not an employment application), investigation, adjudication, and continuous evaluation processes.

(i) "Federally controlled facilities" and "federally controlled information systems" have the meanings prescribed in guidance pursuant to the Federal Information Security Management Act (title III of Public Law 107-347) and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12.

(j) "Logical and physical access" means access other than occasional or intermittent ac-

cess to federally controlled facilities or information systems.

(k) "Sensitive position" means any position so designated under Executive Order 10450 of April 27, 1953, as amended.

(l) "Suitability" has the meaning and coverage provided in 5 CFR Part 731.

## **PART 2—ALIGNMENT, RECIPROCITY, AND GOVERNANCE**

**Sec. 2.1. Aligned System.** (a) Investigations and adjudications of covered individuals who require a determination of suitability, eligibility for logical and physical access, eligibility to hold a sensitive position, eligibility for access to classified information, and, as appropriate, contractor employee fitness, shall be aligned using consistent standards to the extent possible. Each successively higher level of investigation and adjudication shall build upon, but not duplicate, the ones below it.

(b) The aligned system shall employ updated and consistent standards and methods, enable innovations with enterprise information technology capabilities and end-to-end automation to the extent practicable, and ensure that relevant information maintained by agencies can be accessed and shared rapidly across the executive branch, while protecting national security, protecting privacy-related information, ensuring resulting decisions are in the national interest, and providing the Federal Government with an effective workforce.

(c) Except as otherwise authorized by law, background investigations and adjudications shall be mutually and reciprocally accepted by all agencies. An agency may not establish additional investigative or adjudicative requirements (other than requirements for the conduct of a polygraph examination consistent with law, directive, or regulation) that exceed the requirements for suitability, contractor employee fitness, eligibility for logical or physical access, eligibility to hold a sensitive position, or eligibility for access to classified information without the approval of the Suitability Executive Agent or Security Executive Agent, as appropriate, and provided that approval to establish additional requirements shall be limited to circumstances where additional requirements are necessary

to address significant needs unique to the agency involved or to protect national security.

**Sec. 2.2. Establishment and Functions of Performance Accountability Council.** (a) There is hereby established a Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council (Council).

(b) The Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, shall serve as Chair of the Council and shall have authority, direction, and control over the Council's functions. Membership on the Council shall include the Suitability Executive Agent and the Security Executive Agent. The Chair shall select a Vice Chair to act in the Chair's absence. The Chair shall have authority to designate officials from additional agencies who shall serve as members of the Council. Council membership shall be limited to Federal Government employees and shall include suitability and security professionals.

(c) The Council shall be accountable to the President to achieve, consistent with this order, the goals of reform, and is responsible for driving implementation of the reform effort, ensuring accountability by agencies, ensuring the Suitability Executive Agent and the Security Executive Agent align their respective processes, and sustaining reform momentum.

(d) The Council shall:

- (i) ensure alignment of suitability, security, and, as appropriate, contractor employee fitness investigative and adjudicative processes;
- (ii) hold agencies accountable for the implementation of suitability, security, and, as appropriate, contractor employee fitness processes and procedures;
- (iii) establish requirements for enterprise information technology;
- (iv) establish annual goals and progress metrics and prepare annual reports on results;
- (v) ensure and oversee the development of tools and techniques for enhancing background investigations and the making of eligibility determinations;
- (vi) arbitrate disparities in procedures between the Suitability Executive Agent and the Security Executive Agent;
- (vii) ensure sharing of best practices; and
- (viii) advise the Suitability Executive Agent and the Security Executive Agent on policies affecting the alignment of investigations and adjudications.

(e) The Chair may, to ensure the effective implementation of the policy set forth in section 1.1 of this order and to the extent consistent with law, assign, in whole or in part, to the head of any agency (solely or jointly) any function within the Council's responsibility relating to alignment and improvement of investigations and determinations of suitability, contractor employee fitness, eligibility for logical and physical access, eligibility for access to classified information, or eligibility to hold a sensitive position.

**Sec. 2.3. Establishment, Designation, and Functions of Executive Agents.** (a) There is hereby established a Suitability Executive Agent and a Security Executive Agent.

(b) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall serve as the Suitability Executive Agent. As the Suitability Executive Agent, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management will continue to be responsible for developing and implementing uniform and consistent policies and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient, and timely completion of investigations and adjudications relating to determinations of suitability and eligibility for logical and physical access.

(c) The Director of National Intelligence shall serve as the Security Executive Agent. The Security Executive Agent:

- (i) shall direct the oversight of investigations and determinations of eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position made by any agency;
- (ii) shall be responsible for developing uniform and consistent policies and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient, and timely completion of investigations and adjudications relating to determinations of eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position;

- (iii) may issue guidelines and instructions to the heads of agencies to ensure appropriate uniformity, centralization, efficiency, effectiveness, and timeliness in processes relating to determinations by agencies of eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position;
  - (iv) shall serve as the final authority to designate an agency or agencies to conduct investigations of persons who are proposed for access to classified information to ascertain whether such persons satisfy the criteria for obtaining and retaining access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position;
  - (v) shall serve as the final authority to designate an agency or agencies to determine eligibility for access to classified information in accordance with Executive Order 12968 of August 2, 1995;
  - (vi) shall ensure reciprocal recognition of eligibility for access to classified information among the agencies, including acting as the final authority to arbitrate and resolve disputes among the agencies involving the reciprocity of investigations and determinations of eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position; and
  - (vii) may assign, in whole or in part, to the head of any agency (solely or jointly) any of the functions detailed in (i) through (vi), above, with the agency's exercise of such assigned functions to be subject to the Security Executive Agent's oversight and with such terms and conditions (including approval by the Security Executive Agent) as the Security Executive Agent determines appropriate.
- (d) Nothing in this order shall be construed in a manner that would limit the authorities of the Director of the Office of Personnel Management or the Director of National Intelligence under law.
- Sec. 2.4. Additional Functions.** (a) The duties assigned to the Security Policy Board by Executive Order 12968 of August 2, 1995, to consider, coordinate, and recommend policy directives for executive branch security policies, procedures, and practices are reassigned to the Security Executive Agent.
- (b) Heads of agencies shall:
- (i) carry out any function assigned to the agency head by the Chair, and shall assist the Chair, the Council, the Suitability Executive Agent, and the Security Executive Agent in carrying out any function under sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this order;
  - (ii) implement any policy or procedure developed pursuant to this order;
  - (iii) to the extent permitted by law, make available to the Performance Accountability Council, the Suitability Executive Agent, or the Security Executive Agent such information as may be requested to implement this order;
  - (iv) ensure that all actions taken under this order take account of the counterintelligence interests of the United States, as appropriate; and
  - (v) ensure that actions taken under this order are consistent with the President's constitutional authority to:
    - (A) conduct the foreign affairs of the United States;
    - (B) withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties;
    - (C) recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President may judge necessary or expedient; and
    - (D) supervise the unitary executive branch.
- PART 3—MISCELLANEOUS**
- Sec. 3. General Provisions.** (a) Executive Order 13381 of June 27, 2005, as amended, is revoked. Nothing in this order shall:
- (i) supersede, impede, or otherwise affect:
    - (A) Executive Order 10450 of April 27, 1953, as amended;
    - (B) Executive Order 10577 of November 23, 1954, as amended;

- (C) Executive Order 12333 of December 4, 1981, as amended;
- (D) Executive Order 12829 of January 6, 1993, as amended; or
- (E) Executive Order 12958 of April 17, 1995, as amended; nor
- (ii) diminish or otherwise affect the denial and revocation procedures provided to individuals covered by Executive Order 10865 of February 20, 1960, as amended.
- (b) Executive Order 12968 of August 2, 1995 is amended:
  - (i) by inserting:
 

**“Sec. 3.5. Continuous Evaluation.** An individual who has been determined to be eligible for or who currently has access to classified information shall be subject to continuous evaluation under standards (including, but not limited to, the frequency of such evaluation) as determined by the Director of National Intelligence.”; and
  - (ii) by striking “the Security Policy Board shall make recommendations to the President through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs” in section 6.3(a) and inserting in lieu thereof “the Director of National Intelligence shall serve as the final authority”;
  - (iii) by striking “Security Policy Board” and inserting in lieu thereof “Security Executive Agent” in each instance;
  - (iv) by striking “the Board” in section 1.1(j) and inserting in lieu thereof “the Security Executive Agent”; and
  - (v) by inserting “or appropriate automated procedures” in section 3.1(b) after “by appropriately trained adjudicative personnel”.
- (c) Nothing in this order shall supersede, impede, or otherwise affect the remainder of Executive Order 12968 of August 2, 1995, as amended.
- (d) Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by striking “The Center for Federal Investigative Services” in section 1–216 and inserting in lieu thereof “The Federal Investigative Services Division.”
- (e) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the:
  - (i) authority granted by law to a department or agency, or the head thereof; or
  - (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (f) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (g) Existing delegations of authority made pursuant to Executive Order 13381 of June 27, 2005, as amended, to any agency relating to granting eligibility for access to classified information and conducting investigations shall 13 remain in effect, subject to the exercise of authorities pursuant to this order to revise or revoke such delegation.
- (h) If any provision of this order or the application of such provision is held to be invalid, the remainder of this order shall not be affected.
- (i) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 30, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,  
11:00 a.m., July 1, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the  
*Federal Register* on July 2.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders on Extending and Terminating Generalized System of Preferences Benefits**

*June 30, 2008*

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr.  
President:)*

In accordance with section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”), I am notifying the Congress of my intent to (a) designate the Republic of Serbia

(Serbia) and the Republic of Montenegro (Montenegro) as separate beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); and (b) terminate the designation of Trinidad and Tobago as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP.

In Proclamation 7912 of June 29, 2005, I designated Serbia and Montenegro as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP. On June 3, 2006, Montenegro declared independence from Serbia and Montenegro and the country separated into two independent republics, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined that, in light of the separation of Serbia and Montenegro into two countries, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro should each be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP.

Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP if the President determines that such country has become a “high income” country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made. I have determined that Trinidad and Tobago has become a “high income” country, and I am terminating the designation of that country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective January 1, 2010.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Issuance of Temporary Munitions Export Licenses for Exports to China**

*June 30, 2008*

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr.  
President:)*

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902(b)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101–246) (the “Act”), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate temporarily the suspensions under section 902(a)(3) of the Act with respect to the issuance of temporary munitions export licenses for exports to the People’s Republic of China insofar as these restrictions pertain to firearms and related items for use by U.S. and non-U.S. athletes competing in shooting events, and military gyroscopes that are embedded in mobile high definition television camera systems for use by U.S. filming crews, at the Beijing Olympics. Licensing requirements remain in place for these exports and require review and approval on a case-by-case basis by the United States Government. The equipment will be returned to the United States following the end of the games.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

### **Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Housing Counseling in North Little Rock, Arkansas**

*July 1, 2008*

Thank you all for having us. We’re here at the Family Service Agency here in Little Rock to discuss ways to help people either buy a home for the first time or stay in a home.

Before—I want to—before I say a few words about how the government can help people stay in their home, I do want to thank Charles and your team of counselors who are

here. Thank you for your briefing. I thought it was very thorough and understandable.

I do want to thank the Secretary of HUD for joining us, as well as Congressman Boozman. I really appreciate your time.

And I want to thank Caroline [Carolyn]<sup>\*</sup>, first-time home buyer—or, she went to the first-time home buyers program in Jacksonville, Arkansas—and Patty from Conway, Arkansas.

One of the problems we have when it comes to buying a home is that there's a lot of fine print, and people get worried about it. And so these counselors have helped simplify the process. And one of the great challenges now is how to help creditworthy people stay in their homes, because we got some people who are—just with some little help, some advice, and some counseling will be able to figure out a way to stay in the home. It's in our national interest we do so. That's what Patty bought—she had a home and was very worried about being able to stay in it; got some good advice through Sue and is now in the home.

And this has happened all across America, by the way. There's some good programs coming out of Washington, all aimed at saying to the American citizen, if you are worried about staying in your home, contact a counseling service, we'll help you—"we" being the collective group of people that are in this business. After all, this is a HUD-funded counseling program; you receive some money from HUD for your counseling.

Congress can help, when they come back, to pass a good piece of housing legislation that modernizes the FHA and reforms these GSEs. And we—I think we can get us a bill, but it's going to require less politics and more focus on keeping our minds on who we need to help, and that's the homeowner.

And so I do want to thank you very much for having us. This is an issue on people's minds. It's an issue where there is good help to be had. And so if people are looking for help here in Arkansas, it's a good place to turn to—family services. And there are other places around the country where people can get help, where there's experts that will help them refinance their mortgages or work with

their mortgage companies to help you stay in their homes. It's in our interest that more people stay in their homes during this period of uncertainty.

I'm confident, in the long run, America's going to be just fine. We're a country that has overcome challenges before. And we've got some challenges—high gasoline prices; we've got some challenges in the housing industry. We know the way forward in housing: good legislation and helping people stay in their homes. And the truth of the matter is, we know the way forward when it comes to energy. We're depending too much on energy from overseas. We ought to be finding more energy here at home. If people want their gasoline prices down, let's find energy here in America. And there's plenty of energy to be had.

At any rate, thank you all for your time. I enjoyed it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:48 p.m. at the Family Service Agency. In his remarks, he referred to Charles Deville, Jr., executive director, Family Service Agency; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Steven C. Preston; Carolyn Pierson, homeowner, Jacksonville, AR; Patty Couch, homeowner, Conway, AR; and Sue Pearson, budget, credit, and housing counselor, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Family Service Agency.

## Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

July 1, 2008

Forty years ago today, the United States joined 61 other nations in signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Today, almost all nations are party to the treaty. The NPT represents a key legal barrier to nuclear weapons proliferation and makes a critical contribution to international security. I reaffirm the strong support of the United States for the treaty and our commitment to work diligently to strengthen it further.

NPT parties must take strong action to confront noncompliance with the treaty in order to preserve and strengthen its non-proliferation undertakings. We cannot allow

<sup>\*</sup> White House correction.

nations to violate their commitments and undermine the NPT's fundamental role in advancing international security. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through its safeguards system, plays a vital role in supporting the treaty by uncovering and reporting violations of nuclear safeguards. The United States is committed to ensuring the IAEA has the tools and access it needs to do its work, especially in support of universal adherence to the Additional Protocol.

The United States remains firmly committed to continued compliance with our own obligations under the NPT. Our record demonstrates this commitment, including to the disarmament goals expressed in the preamble and Article VI of the treaty. Because of the nuclear reductions I have directed and the Moscow Treaty I signed with Russia, the U.S. nuclear weapon stockpile already has been reduced by half since I entered office and is at its smallest size since the 1950s.

The United States supports the global expansion of peaceful nuclear energy as a means of meeting growing energy demand and utilizing this zero-emission source of energy to help meet the challenge of climate change. This expansion of nuclear energy must be safe, secure, and not contribute to nuclear proliferation.

It is essential in these times of great challenges to the security of the international community, particularly when terrorists and state sponsors of terrorism seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction, that NPT parties work together to confront the dangers of nuclear proliferation. I call upon all parties to act promptly and effectively to meet these challenges and ensure that the treaty remains an effective instrument of global security.

## The President's News Conference

July 2, 2008

**The President.** Good morning. Next week, I'm going to travel to Japan for the eighth and final G-8 summit of my Presidency.

At recent summits, G-8 countries have made pledges to help developing nations address challenges, from health care to edu-

cation to corruption. Now we need to show the world that the G-8 can be accountable for its promises and deliver results. As I said the other day, we need people who not only make promises but write checks, for the sake of human rights and human dignity and for the sake of peace.

Accountability is really important when it comes to our work on the continent of Africa. In 2005, G-8 leaders promised to double development assistance to Africa by 2010. America is on track to meet our commitments. And in Japan, I'll urge other leaders to fulfill their commitments as well.

We must also fulfill our commitments in the battle against HIV/AIDS and malaria. I've asked Congress to reauthorize and expand the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, doubling our funding for this vital effort. It's very important that Congress reauthorize this plan, but in the meantime, we're fulfilling our promises that we made, not only to—at the G-8, but more importantly, to the people of—on the continent of Africa.

It's important that over the next 5 years that we support antiretroviral treatment for approximately 2.5 million people; that we prevent 12 million new AIDS infections; and that we care for 12 million people also affected by HIV/AIDS, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children. Last year, the G-8 agreed to meet those commitments; they agreed to match. They also agreed to help us reduce malaria in affected countries by half. And I just—I hope that these countries understand the great promise and hope that comes when we help alleviate this suffering. And so one of my really important agenda items is going to rally our partners to make commitments and meet commitments.

We'll also discuss additional steps to confront some other challenges, such as the need to train health care workers in G-8 partner countries in Africa. It's one thing to say we're going to help people with their—deal with disease, but a lot of these countries need workers that are capable of helping, of reaching out to people in need. We should set a goal to treat at least 75 percent of the people with neglected tropical diseases in the most affected countries. We've got to work

to confront higher food prices. I'm confident we'll be talking about energy and food.

On the food issue, I've announced that the United States would make available nearly \$1 billion in new resources to bolster global food security. Once again, I'll be going to the G-8 and talking about the great compassion and concern of the American people in addressing problems.

At Toyako, I'll also ask leaders of the G-8 to make other important strategic moves to alleviate hunger, such as increasing the shipments of food, fertilizers, and seeds to countries in need. It's one thing to talk about the problem; this is a practical way to help countries deal with the lack of food.

We need to help severely affected nations grow more of their own food. It's one thing to provide food; it seems like—to make sense to me to say, we're going to help you become more agriculturally self-sustaining. This has been a issue in the United States Congress, by the way. Unfortunately, we tried to get this in the farm bill. Our Members of Congress decided against this plan, this way forward. But it makes sense for the United States, if we're going to be providing food aid, to encourage people to grow their own food so we don't have to deal with this problem on a regular basis.

I'm also going to make sure that the world understands the importance of advanced agricultural technologies, including biotechnology, to help nations grow food so they don't have to come to the world for help. We'll also be talking about export restrictions and tariffs and subsidies. We will work to tear down barriers to trade and investment around the world. It's an opportunity for those of us in the G-8 and the other nations coming to talk about a successful round of Doha. The United States is firmly committed to Doha. We're working hard to get this done by the end of the year, and it will be a good opportunity in Japan to discuss what we need to do together to open up market access and to reduce agricultural subsidies.

We'll be talking about energy security and, of course, at the same time, the climate change issue. I'll be reminding people that we can have better energy security and we can be better stewards of the environment without sacrificing economic growth.

And the principle is pretty simple. It's going to be hard to have the amount of money necessary to invest in new technologies if we don't have the money to spend, and therefore, we need to make sure our economies are vibrant.

We're now implementing new mandatory programs that will reduce billions of tons of emissions. I'll remind people at the G-8 and other nations that we're taking effective steps. We're going to make available more than \$40 billion in loan guarantee authority to support private sector incentives and innovative clean energy technologies.

The 2009 budget requests more than \$4 billion to support technologies that have the potential to avoid, reduce, and sequester greenhouse gases. In other words, we've got a strong agenda when it comes to providing money to encourage the advent of new technologies. And as well, when—we'll be meeting with leaders of the major economies to discuss shared strategies and practical actions for addressing greenhouse gas emissions. This is called the major economies process that we proposed and G-8 leaders endorsed.

All this is aiming, by the way, to develop a strategy in which major economies are a part of the strategy. Look, we can't have an effective agreement unless China and India are a part of it. It's as simple as that. I'm going to remind our partners that's the case. And we want the United Nations Framework Convention to be effective. And so we've got to reach common ground on how to proceed.

And we're making some progress there, including the knowledge that we've got to have a long-term emissions reduction goal, mid-term goals with national plans to achieve them, and cooperation in key industrial sectors.

And also we're going to talk about the struggle against violent extremists. The temptation is to kind of say, well, maybe this isn't really a war; maybe this is just a bunch of disgruntled folks that occasionally come and hurt us. That, you know—that's not the way I feel about it. This is an ongoing, constant struggle to defend our own security and, at the same time, help people realize the blessings of liberty. I'll, of course, talk about Afghanistan and Iraq, and ask the G-8 to continue to help.

So this is an historic opportunity to meet, to exchange ideas, and to address some of the problems we all face. And I'm looking forward to going. And now I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press].

### ***Afghanistan/U.S. Troop Levels***

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. June was the deadliest month for U.S. troops in—since we began the war in Afghanistan. Has Afghanistan replaced Iraq as the central front of the war on terror? And is Al Qaida and the Taliban taking the upper hand? And also, is it possible that we could send additional U.S. troops there sooner than the 2009 date that you've been talking about?

**The President.** First of all, any time a troop loses their life, whether it be in Afghanistan, Iraq, or elsewhere, our hearts go out to their families. And I am so appreciative that, in a time of danger, Americans are willing to step up and volunteer and sacrifice.

Secondly, it has been a tough month in Afghanistan, but it's also been a tough month for the Taliban. You know, one reason why there have been more deaths is because our troops are taking the fight to a tough enemy. You know, an enemy who doesn't like our presence there because they don't like the idea of America denying safe haven. America is pressing an ideology that's opposite of theirs, and so, of course, there's going to be resistance.

I am confident that the strategy is going to work, which is to confront the Taliban, confront elements of Al Qaida, and, at the same time, encourage the growth of a free society by good economic policy, good education policy, and good health policy.

We're constantly reviewing troop needs, troop levels. We're halfway through 2008; as I said, we're going to increase troops by 2009. One thing, however, that you've got to understand is that we have doubled Afghan troops—coalition troops have doubled from 2 years ago. So there is an active presence, and there are more troops there than there were. But we're constantly reassessing and seeing whether or not we can change tactics in order to achieve our objective.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

### ***U.S. Monetary Policy/Energy***

**Q.** What do you realistically expect to accomplish at the G-8 to deal with soaring oil prices and the weak dollar, which are having effects on the U.S. economy? Even the Chinese now are saying that the United States needs to stabilize the dollar.

**The President.** Yes. Well, we're strong-dollar people in this administration and have always been for a strong dollar and believe that the relative strengths of our economy will reflect that. One thing we need to make clear when I'm with our partners is that we're not going to become protectionists; that we believe in free trade and open markets. One of the fears around the world is the United States becomes a protectionist nation.

Secondly, I'll remind people it took us a while to get into the energy situation we're in, and it's going to take us a while to get out of it. But one thing is for certain here in the United States, that we can help alleviate shortages by drilling for oil and gas in our own country. Something I've been advocating ever since I've been the President. I've been reminding our people that we can do so in environmentally friendly ways. And yet, the Congress, the Democratically controlled Congress now has refused to budge. It makes no sense for—to watch these gasoline prices rise when we know we can help affect the supply of crude oil, which should affect the supply of gasoline prices.

And so, yes, we'll be talking about energy. Ultimately, of course, we're going to transition away from hydrocarbons. But we're now just in a transitional period, and we need more oil to be able to do so. And I'm also going to remind people that our habits are changing. Do you notice in these newspapers that automobile sales have slowed down dramatically as automobile manufacturers shift from cars that are using more gasoline to cars that are more efficient, more fuel efficient?

And I'll also tell them, it's a tough period for American consumers. I mean, nobody likes high gasoline prices, and I fully understand why Americans are concerned about gasoline prices. But I want them to understand fully that we have got the opportunity to find more crude oil here at home, in environmentally friendly ways. And they ought to be writing their Congresspeople about it.

And they ought to say, “You ought to be opening up ANWR and Outer Continental Shelf and increasing oil shale exploration for the sake of our consumers, as well as become less dependent on oil.”

McKinnon [John McKinnon, Wall Street Journal].

### **Environment/Technology/Trade**

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. Can you tell me what is the outlook for getting an agreement with the emerging economies that will limit emissions in a meaningful way in the midterm? What’s the outlook for that, and how—

**The President.** Yes, well, the first thing, John, is to make sure we get a understanding that all of us need to agree on a long-term goal. And part of the reluctance has been—on some nations that are major economies—to participate at all, because initially, I’m confident, they thought they were going to get a free pass from any international agreement. I mean, after all, the Kyoto international agreement excluded major economies. And therefore, they probably think, well, maybe history will repeat itself.

The idea is to say, look, we want to be effective. Effectiveness comes when major economies come to the table. The first step is to agree to a long-term goal. And I’ve talked to our sherpa about that, and he feels pretty good that people are now coming to that clear understanding that we’re going to have to come to a long-term goal. Hopefully we can do it at this meeting. If not, we’ll continue to press forward to get it done.

Secondly, one of the—a lot of the developing world says, well, it’s unfair; the developed world gets to develop, and we don’t. Well, our attitude about that is, why don’t we set up a technology fund; and that—make it easier for people to be able to afford the new technologies that nations like ours and others will bring to the marketplace.

Thirdly, if you really do want to make sure technologies move around the world, we got to reduce these trade barriers and tariffs that prohibit technologies from moving like they should.

And so, we’ll see, John. I mean, this is a tough issue. It’s tough to get consensus. People—there’s a consensus that it’s a problem,

but it’s tough to get a consensus that all of us have a responsibility to do something about it—not just some, but all of us, so that whatever we do is effective.

Bret Baier [FOX News].

### **Iran**

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. There have been a spate of recent stories about possible military action against Iran before the end of the year, if not by the U.S. then by Israel. And that prompted Iranian officials to say, if they’re attacked, they’ll essentially shut down the Strait of Hormuz. One, how confident are you that Israel will not act independently as the diplomatic process moves forward? And two, what do you make of the mixed messages out of Iran—one of defiance and one of willingness to negotiate?

**The President.** I have always said that all options are on the table, but the first option for the United States is to solve this problem diplomatically. I’ve also made it clear—made it clear that you can’t solve a problem diplomatically unless there are other people at the table with you. And that is why we have been pursuing multilateral diplomacy when it comes to convincing the Iranians that the free world is sincere about, you know, insisting that they not have the technologies necessary to develop a nuclear weapon.

And we’re making progress along those lines. There’s been the numerous Security Council resolutions. And in my recent trip to Europe, I was very encouraged to see these leaders stand up and speak out about the need to keep our coalition active and keep the pressure on.

I will talk to Martha Raddatz [ABC News].

### **Israel/Iran**

**Q.** Let me follow up on that. Would you strongly discourage Israel from going after Iran militarily? And do you believe, when you leave office, Iran will be pursuing a nuclear weapon?

**The President.** I have made it very clear to all parties that the first option ought to be to solve this problem diplomatically. And the best way to solve it diplomatically is for the United States to work with other nations to send a focused message, and that is, that

you will be isolated and you will have economic hardship if you continue trying to enrich.

As you might remember, I worked closely with Vladimir Putin on this issue. When I said that—when asked at one of these innumerable press conferences, “Did you—do you think they ought to have a civilian nuclear program?” I said, “Of course, they should, but they can’t be trusted to enrich.”

And therefore, I agree with Russia that Russia—when Russia said she will provide enriched uranium for a civilian nuclear power program and will collect the enriched uranium, thereby negating the need for the Iranian regime to enrich at all.

And so we will continue working diplomatically.

Listen, thank you very much. I’ve enjoyed being with you. I hope you’ve enjoyed being with me. You haven’t? Thank you.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 10:31 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price, in his capacity as personal representative (sherpa) for the President in preparations for the G–8 summit; and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia, in his former capacity as President of Russia.

### **Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2008**

*July 2, 2008*

I send greetings to all Americans on Independence Day.

More than two centuries ago, bold and courageous visionaries pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in signing the Declaration of Independence. Guided by ancient and eternal truths, our forefathers proclaimed to the world that liberty was the natural right of all mankind and in doing so began one of the greatest chapters in human history. On the Fourth of July, our country commemorates the great achievements of these heroes and reaffirms its unwavering confidence in the power of freedom.

It was the desire for freedom that inspired our Founding Fathers, and it is the belief

in the universality of freedom that guides our Nation. On this occasion, we pay special tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces, both past and present, who have answered freedom’s call and defended the values that make America the greatest country on earth.

May God bless America.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

### **Remarks at a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland**

*July 3, 2008*

Thank you very much, Deputy Secretary England, for that generous introduction. I am so honored to be here at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. This is often called the President’s hospital. The reason why is this is where the President gets medical care. But I’m relieved today not to be on the treadmill, weighing in, and getting a blood test. [*Laughter*] I also will tell you that the care that the President gets here is extraordinary.

I am so excited to be here for what is a grand occasion. This is a big deal, the breaking ground of a new joint medical facility for the men and women of our Armed Forces. Thank you all for joining us.

In a few years, the current campus at Walter Reed will close, and many of its services will be relocated to the new complex here on the grounds at Bethesda. The two hospitals will be merged into one central campus, which will be called the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. At this new center, wounds will be healed, medical knowledge will be advanced, lives will be rebuilt. And those who wear our Nation’s uniform will be reminded that they have the enduring gratitude of the American people.

I thank all who serve Walter Reed and Bethesda. I love being with the healers and caregivers and incredibly compassionate people who makes our current facility successful and will make this new center a great success.

Congressman, thank you very much for joining us. I know you are proud that this new facility is in your congressional district. Thank you for working hard to see this vision become a reality.

Lieutenant Governor, proud to be with you. This man wear the uniform of the United States military, and I'm proud to be with this veteran and now public servant for the State of Maryland.

Members of the administration who are here, thank you all for coming. Chaplain York, thanks for the blessings. And all those who wear the uniform, thanks for sacrificing for the country.

This morning, we gather in a place that was chosen by another President to be the site of a world-class naval hospital. When President Franklin Roosevelt dedicated Bethesda in the early years of World War II, he placed this facility on the frontlines of what he called the "battle against disease, disability, and death." The military surgeons and nurses, scientists and technicians, he said, "are anonymous heroes of this war."

More than six decades later, our Nation is engaged in a very different battle for our freedom. Yet our success still relies on these "anonymous heroes," the healers who care for the troops, those troops who keep the American people safe. In this new war, giving our troops the care they deserve requires cutting-edge medical facilities. And that is what this new medical center will provide.

When the construction is complete, this facility will encompass 345 beds and 6.7 million square feet. It will join the resources of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and make it easier for medical professionals in all three services to collaborate and care for the patients. Our troops and their families will no longer have to travel between Bethesda and Walter Reed to see multiple specialists. The new complex will also benefit from the good work of the Dole-Shalala Wounded Warriors Commission, which has issued recommendations for modernizing and improving our military health care system. Those recommendations will provide a strong foundation for effective, accountable care here at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

This new medical center will be a place of healing. Every day, our military doctors and nurses and medical staff demonstrate their immense skill and their caring hearts. You soothe the pain and fear of patients. You console families who keep constant vigil over their loved ones. You share the joy of a neurology patient's first recovered words and an amputee's first steps. When required, you can show tough love, but you also like to remind patients that laughter is the best medicine. And we look forward to the day when the joy of recovery echoes through the halls of the new medical facility that will be built here.

This new medical center will be a place of innovation. Major Walter Reed was the Army doctor who found that yellow fever is transmitted by mosquitoes, a discovery that has saved countless lives. The new institution bearing his name will continue his legacy of lifesaving research. Today, our Nation's military doctors are revolutionizing how we approach traumatic brain injuries, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, and amputee care. In many fields, you are far ahead of civilian medicine. And when Bethesda and Walter Reed merge into one campus across from the National Institutes of Health, this will be the site of many more promising breakthroughs that will benefit not only our troops but all mankind.

This new medical center will be a place of compassion. At Bethesda and Walter Reed, volunteers organize holiday celebration, poker nights, and field trips. They distribute care packages from thousands of Americans who want to show their gratitude for our troops. Recently, schoolchildren from New York made pillows for soldiers at Walter Reed and sent letters along with the gifts. The children wrote: "[You are] everyone's hero." "Thank you for fighting for our freedom." At this new center, the Americans who fight for our freedom will get the compassion and support they deserve.

This new medical center will be a place of courage. Our wounded warriors show that while the human body is fragile, the human spirit is strong. Anybody who has met the wounded at Walter Reed and Bethesda cannot help but be incredibly impressed by the courage and sacrifice of our troops.

Recently, I saw this strength in a young Air Force Staff Sergeant named Scott Lilley. Scott was serving in Iraq when an IED left him with a severe brain injury. I think it was last Fourth of July that you came to the White House. Yes, I was one who felt like this guy had no chance. And yet, he—the doctors here used state-of-the-art technology and aggressive treatment to get Scott better. Their perseverance paid off, and so has his. I welcomed he and his mom and dad to the Oval Office the other day. He was more eloquent than I was, which isn't all that hard. [Laughter] He drives a car; he goes to baseball games; he loves to joke.

His doctor calls Scott's recovery miraculous. And thanks to the extraordinary care he received at Bethesda as well his own extraordinary resolve, he is now back on active duty in the Air Force. And we are glad you're here.

The greatest privilege of serving as President is to be the Commander in Chief of such an extraordinary group of men and women who wear our Nation's uniform. And I'm pleased to help start construction on the new hospital that will continue to provide the excellent care our troops deserve. It is fitting that this new facility be built in a place called Bethesda, which draws its name from the Biblical pool of healing. It is there that a lame man was made to walk and was dispatched with the words: "Behold, thou art made whole."

I pray that this will be the site of many miracles of healing, where the lame will walk again, where broken bodies will be made whole, and where you'll always know that you're in our prayers and in the hearts of the American people.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. at the National Naval Medical Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Chris Van Hollen and Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown of Maryland; Capt. Lorenzo York, USN, command chaplain, National Naval Medical Center; and former Senator Bob Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, Cochairs, President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors.

## **Remarks on Departure From the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda**

*July 3, 2008*

### ***Rescue of Hostages in Colombia***

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak to President Uribe of Colombia. And he called to give me the good news that hostages had been rescued, including three Americans that had been held since 2003. I congratulated the President. I asked him to congratulate his military and those who had planned it. And I told him what a joyous occasion it must be to know that the plan had worked, that people who were unjustly held are now free to be with their families.

And so I'm proud of our relationship with Colombia, and I'm proud of my friend President Uribe. And I appreciate his courage and his strong leadership and the successful operations they waged.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:56 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes, and Keith Stansell, former hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC).

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### ***June 28***

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared an emergency in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning June 20 and continuing.

### ***June 29***

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

**June 30**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with print journalists.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Illinois by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of the severe storms and flooding beginning on June 1 and continuing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Wisconsin by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on June 5 and continuing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Missouri by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of the severe storms and flooding beginning on June 1 and continuing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Iowa by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on May 25 and continuing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Indiana by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of the severe storms and flooding beginning on June 6 and continuing.

**July 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Jackson, MS, arriving in the afternoon. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Cameron Fox and military personnel and their families.

Later in the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a Mississippi Victory Committee and Senator Roger Wicker fundraiser luncheon. Later, he traveled to North Little Rock, AR, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Robbie Powell.

In the late afternoon, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR, where, at a private

residence, he attended an Arkansas Victory 2008 reception. While leaving Little Rock, he stopped to meet individuals attending a birthday party for 7-year-old Marby Meadors.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Hastings to be Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

The President announced his intention to designate Gordon S. Heddell as Acting Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Defense.

**July 2**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President participated in separate interviews with foreign print and television journalists. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia to congratulate him on the rescue of 15 hostages from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

**July 3**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Situation Room, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. He then traveled to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Later in the morning, at the National Naval Medical Center, the President participated in an interview with Mike Emanuel of FOX News. Then, also at the National Naval Medical Center, he visited with wounded U.S. military personnel and presented Purple Heart medals to service members.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan to the White House on July 28.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to South Korea, Thailand, and China in August.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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### ***Released June 28***

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to California

### ***Released June 30***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 6327, S. 1692, S. 2146, and S. 3180

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Iowa

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Wisconsin

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

### ***Released July 1***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Council Senior Director for East Asian Affairs Dennis C. Wilder, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price, and Council on Environmental Quality Chairman James L. Connaughton on the President's visit to Japan and the G-8 summit

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 5690, S. 188, S. 254, and S. 682

Fact sheet: Helping Responsible Homeowners Across America

### ***Released July 3***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President and Mrs. Bush's visit to South Korea, Thailand, and China in August

Fact sheet: Charting a Clear Course for the Economy

Fact sheet: Senate Must Act Quickly on Bipartisan Foreign Intelligence Legislation To Ensure That Our Intelligence Professionals Can Better Protect America From Terrorists

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## **Acts Approved by the President**

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### ***Approved June 30***

H.R. 2642 / Public Law 110-252  
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008

H.R. 6327 / Public Law 110-253  
Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008

S. 1692 / Public Law 110-254  
To grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated

S. 2146 / Public Law 110-255  
To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects, and for other purposes

S. 3180 / Public Law 110-256  
To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965

***Approved July 1***

H.R. 5690 / Public Law 110–257

To remove the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes

S. 188 / Public Law 110–258

To revise the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006

S. 254 / Public Law 110–259

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi

S. 682 / Public Law 110–260

Edward William Brooke III Congressional Gold Medal Act